



**U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Inmate Death at FMC Fort Worth**

WASHINGTON, D.C.: On Saturday, December 26, 2020, inmate Joe Gary Rivas, Jr. tested positive for COVID-19 at the Federal Medical Center (FMC) Fort Worth in Fort Worth, Texas, and was immediately placed in medical isolation. On Friday, January 1, 2021, Mr. Rivas was found unresponsive. Responding staff immediately initiated life-saving measures. Staff requested emergency medical services who continued life-saving efforts and transported Mr. Rivas to a local hospital. On the same day, Mr. Rivas, who had long-term, pre-existing medical conditions, which the CDC lists as risk factors for developing more severe COVID-19 disease, was pronounced deceased by hospital staff.

Mr. Rivas was a 75-year-old male who was sentenced in the Northern District of Texas to a Life sentence for Conspiracy to Import 5 Kilograms or More of Cocaine and 1,000 Kilograms or More of Marijuana. He had been in custody at FMC Fort Worth since July 20, 2017.

FMC Fort Worth is an administrative security facility that currently houses 1,243 male offenders.

The Bureau of Prisons will continue to provide daily updates and information on actions related to COVID-19 at [www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp](http://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp).

Additional information about the Bureau of Prisons can be found at [www.bop.gov](http://www.bop.gov).

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